

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 18, 2003 (Paper No. 13) and the Advisory Action dated October 8, 2003 (Paper No. 15). Claims 1 to 13 and 26 to 38 are in the application, with Claims 14 to 25 having been canceled in the Amendment After Final Rejection dated September 18, 2003. Claims 1, 9 and 26 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for in the indication that Claims 26 to 38 have been allowed and that Claims 2 to 5 and 9 contain allowable subject and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 2 and has rewritten Claim 9 in independent form. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 9 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 6 to 8 and 11 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,185,029 (Ishihara); and Claim 10 was rejected under § 103(a) over Ishihara. Without conceding the correctness of these rejections, and in an effort to expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter, Applicant has incorporated the allowable subject matter of Claim 2 into independent Claim 1, as mentioned above. The remaining rejected claims are dependent from now allowable independent Claim 1 and therefore also are believed to be in condition for allowance. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters having been raised in the Office Action, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 30,957

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 71817 v 1